

that the joy of achievement comes from doing and not being, and that Anderson had continually reinforced that "our business is our future."

"May our future and yours be equally successful," he said.

Air Force Maj. Rebecca Weirick, Anderson's immediate former executive officer, quoted President Theodore Roosevelt — a quote often used by Anderson during his military career. "It's not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles ... the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena."

Today, the credit belongs to Anderson, she added, "for the leadership you taught us and for making a difference every day."

It's Been a Great Ride

Speaking to the crowd of friends, faculty, co-workers, staffers, and other well wishers for the last time in his position as DSMC Commandant, Anderson said, "We have a unique and special mission. We have an opportunity to really make a difference." Praising his DSMC and

DAU "teammates," he emphasized that "We have absolutely fantastic people in our acquisition community; we have a great team who will do whatever we ask them to do."

Reflecting on his military career, Anderson returned to the theme of making a difference. "It's never been about being in charge or about the rank — it's been about making a difference, and I have really worked to try to make a difference."

"Leading is not being in charge — leading is about serving," he continued. And commenting on his tenure at DSMC, he said that he had been privileged to have an absolutely fantastic job.

"I love the Air Force, and I love the things I've done," he said.

Anderson expressed his gratitude to his family, friends, and associates throughout the professional acquisition workforce as well as to all attending the ceremony. "I'm in debt to all of you who made our lives so enriched. *It's been a great ride.*"

INCREASE IN THE TRUTH IN NEGOTIATIONS ACT (TINA) THRESHOLD

The Federal Acquisition Regulation has been changed to increase the threshold for obtaining cost or pricing data from prospective contractors. The threshold, commonly referred to as the Truth in Negotiations Act or "TINA" threshold, was increased from \$500,000 to \$550,000 effective Oct. 11, 2000. According to Deidre A. Lee, Director of Defense Procurement, "Inflation has increased the number of contracts that are subject to the TINA requirements. This 10 percent increase in the threshold restores the intended level of TINA coverage as required by statute."

Cost or pricing data generally must be provided for contracts over the threshold by prospective contractors selling noncommercial items to the government on a sole-source basis. The prospective contractor must certify that the cost or pricing data are current, complete, and accurate, and the government uses the data to help determine a fair and reasonable price. Cost or pricing data include historical accounting data and factors such as vendor quotations. Obtaining cost or pricing data is the least preferred method of determining a fair and reasonable price since it imposes significant burdens on prospective contractors. The U.S. code requires an adjustment to the threshold for inflation every five years.

A copy of the FAR revision can be found on the General Services Administration Web site at <http://www.arnet.gov/far/>.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

NOV. 1, 2000

Today's *Federal Register* contains a proposed change to the *Federal Acquisition Regulation* (FAR) that supports the Administration's policy of giving electronic records and documents the same weight as their paper-based counterparts. The proposed change to the already electronic-friendly FAR will place electronic signatures on a par with hand-scribed signatures. According to Deidre A. Lee, Director of Defense Procurement, this change "supports the movement of federal business transactions from paper-based to online electronic-based processes, supporting our vision of 21st century American business."

Government contracting officers already may conduct the government's business online. The recently enacted "Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act" al-

lows American consumers to choose to use electronic transactions when it makes good business sense to do so. Lee's proposed change to the FAR emphasizes the ability of government contracting officials to conduct government business using the method that makes the most sense. The proposed change clearly allows electronic signatures to be used in government contracting and clearly places electronic transactions on a par with paper-based transactions. The proposed change does not limit electronic signatures to any particular technology, allowing agencies to choose the signature format that best meets their needs and security concerns.

A copy of the proposed FAR change can be found online at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a001101c.html.